

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION DENOUNCING XENOPHOBIA AND ANTI-ASIAN RACISM AFFIRMING SAN DIEGO COUNTY'S COMMITMENT TO THE WELL-BEING AND SAFETY OF ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES.

WHEREAS, Asian Pacific Islander (API) communities are suffering from acts of discrimination, hate crimes, and microaggressions due to fear founded in hateful rhetoric of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, since the December 2019 outbreak of the novel coronavirus (later named SARS-CoV2) in Wuhan, China, the infection has grown to more than 123 million confirmed cases and more than 2,725,000 confirmed deaths caused by COVID-19 worldwide as of March 24, 2021;

WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization, close to 30 million cases of SARS-CoV2 infection have been reported in the United States as of March 24, 2021;

WHEREAS, the outbreak of SARS-CoV2 has been referred to as "China Coronavirus", "Chinese Coronavirus", "Chinese Virus", "Kung-Flu" and "Wuhan Virus" in public discourse;

WHEREAS, such rhetoric is reminiscent of the perception of Chinese Americans as perpetual foreigners and the "yellow peril" in the late 1800s and were subsequently excluded from immigration and naturalization by law for close to a century; the forced relocation and incarceration in concentration camps of Japanese Americans during World War II; the killings and targeting of Filipino migrant workers in California in the 1920's and 1930's; the blaming of East Asians for unemployment in the period of economic competition with Asia Pacific nations in 1980s; the targeting of South Asians, Pakistanis and Sikhs in the wake of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 - to highlight only a few historical examples of scapegoating of ethnic minorities during times of national distress;

WHEREAS, such rhetoric is inaccurate and stigmatizing, tends to incite fear and xenophobia, and may put individuals of Asian ancestry at risk of retaliation and deterrence from accessing resources and services, appearing in public, and expressing their identity;

WHEREAS, scientists have confirmed that the COVID-19 disease does not respect borders and is not caused by ethnicity, and the World Health Organization has cautioned against using geographic descriptors because they can fuel ethnic discrimination;

WHEREAS, as SARS-CoV2 has spread, numerous API have reported experiencing microaggressions, racial profiling, hate incidents and, in some cases, hate violence;

WHEREAS, the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council and Chinese for Affirmative Action created an online reporting center "Stop AAPI Hate" to quantify and combat hate crimes targeting APIs - currently available in English, traditional Chinese, simplified Chinese, Korean,

Thai, Japanese, Khmer, Vietnamese, Punjabi, Tagalog, Hmong, and Hindi;

WHEREAS, as of February 28, 2021, Stop AAPI Hate has received over 3,795 reports of hate acts;

WHEREAS, Stop API Hate shows 42 cases of anti-API acts in San Diego County reported in 2020 including incidences of verbal harassment, shunning, and physical assault;

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2021 there was a targeted shooting at a massage parlor in Atlanta, Georgia, killing seven women and one man, six of those women were of Asian descent, including four who were Korean, and the shooting is suspected of being motivated by anti-Asian racism due to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, over 30,000 businesses are API-owned in San Diego County, with numerous dining and hospitality establishments having reported a decrease in business since January 2020 at the beginning of the outbreak;

WHEREAS, a joint statement released on April 9, 2020 denouncing xenophobia, racism and increasing acts of violence towards API communities has garnered support from 153 local organizations as well as hundreds of individuals;

WHEREAS, a leading group of these API organizations plan to use the information reported to create targeted education and media campaigns, provide resources to those affected, and advocate for policies to curb racial targeting and address health inequities;

WHEREAS, San Diego County is one of the first minority-majority counties in the nation, home to 440,660 Asians, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders, collectively representing one out of every seven residents and the fastest-growing racial group;

WHEREAS, data on COVID-19 infections and fatalities in California show that Asian, Black, Latinx, and Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander communities may be disproportionately impacted;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that San Diego County as an anti-hate entity denounces xenophobia and anti-API sentiment and condemns harmful rhetoric and racist acts arising due to the fears of the COVID-19 pandemic;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that San Diego County joins cities, counties, and states across the country in affirming its commitment to the safety and well-being of citizens, non-citizens and visitors with ancestry from the Asia Pacific region and in combating racist acts targeting APIs;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that San Diego County, in partnership with community-based organizations, advocacy groups, as well as other appropriate officials and agencies across the county, will continue its efforts to protect API residents and victims of discrimination and to

curb hate acts related to COVID-19 as well as those inflicted upon, Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Muslim, and LGBTQIA communities, and people with disabilities;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that the County's Human Relations Commission recently convened to educate the public on incidents of anti-API racism, promote reporting of hate incidents and hate crimes, and promote respect for all residents. The County's HRC will continue to educate the public about hate incidents and hate crimes, promote reporting of such incidents, and promote respect for all;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that on June 23, 2020 County Board of Supervisors voted to create the Office of Equity and Racial Justice (OERJ) to address disparities through the lens of racial justice to ensure we can change inequities systematically, the OERJ will work with the San Diego County's Human Relations Commission to conduct an anti-API hate workshop;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that San Diego County will link the Stop API Hate reporting center on the County's website to join the national effort of documenting and combating anti-API hate; <https://stopaaphate.org/reportincident/>

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that San Diego County will continue to ensure that eligible minority-owned & disadvantaged small businesses have fair access to the County's resources, such as the Small Business Grants, Neighborhood Reinvestment Fund, Community Enhancement Fund, and can be directed to language assistance where needed;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that San Diego County will partner with community-based organizations to highlight API stories and uplift the contributions of API-owned businesses and API-led organizations;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that* San Diego County calls upon all counties, cities, and local governments across the United States to adopt similar commitments to reaffirm their solidarity with API communities and commit to combating hate and improving health equity.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY  
OFFICE OF COUNTY COUNSEL

BY: Rachel H. Witt, Chief Deputy